



**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Mr. Matthew O’Grady, President**

**Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr., Vice President**

**Mrs. Shaina Ciaccio**

**Dr. Vincent J. Costanza**

**Mrs. Sharon DeVito**

**Mrs. Florence Gange**

**Mr. Keith Kochberg**

**Mrs. Faith Silvestrov**

**Mr. Richard Young**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Dr. Steven J. Mayer**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Dr. Kathleen A. Foster**

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY**

**Mr. Robert DeVita**

**ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA**

**March 11, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING**

President Matthew O’Grady called the March 11, 2015 meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 7:02 PM. He read the *Statement of Public Meetings* and led the flag salute.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Ciaccio	Present	Mrs. Gange	Present	Mr. O’Grady	Present
Dr. Costanza	Absent	Mr. Halm	Absent	Mrs. Silvestrov	Present
Mrs. DeVito	Present	Mr. Kochberg	Absent	Mr. Young	Present

**III. TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION – (Attachment #1)**

Dr. Mayer provided the preliminary budget presentation after which the Board asked questions and engaged in discussion.

Mrs. Gange said that she appreciated the simplified presentation and likes that the district is pursuing partnership opportunities with Mercer County College for course offerings that RHS is unable to offer such as Criminal Justice and Communications.

Mrs. Ciaccio posed the following question. Will the tax rate increase significantly if the average assessed value goes down next year? Dr. Mayer indicated that the only way that would happen is if the district takes dollars being used for debt service relief and applies them to the general fund.

Other questions and comments included:

Would it be beneficial to not replace the employees that are retiring?

No. It would affect class size, however, it is important to take a critical look at individual positions / programs to determine whether or not they continue to be necessary.

Are we seeing more retirements as a result of the changes being imposed by the state?  
Robbinsville is not yet experiencing the effects of these changes.

How will low enrollment for the 2015-2016 kindergarten class affect the teaching staff?  
If the number of kindergarten classes are reduced due to enrollment, teaching staff will be moved to a grade with higher enrollment.

It is important to emphasize the savings that are generated by offering existing staff the opportunity to teach an additional class period at RHS rather than hiring 3 – 4 new FTEs. This move will save the district \$300,000.

Mr. Young thanked the administration for trying to hold the line on taxes for the residents of Robbinsville.

**IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

**A. CRAIG HEILMAN**

Mr. Heilman expressed appreciation to the Board for considering the tax impact when developing the budget.

**B. NUSHIN KANANI**

Mrs. Kanani appreciated the understandable way in which the budget was presented. She also asked if the district is getting any money from Amazon. Dr. Mayer indicated that the district is not receiving funds from the Amazon venture.

**V. APPROVE RESOLUTIONS**

**A. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET: ROBBINSVILLE SCHOOLS 2015-2016**

On motion of Mrs. Silvestrov and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 6-0 to adopt the following resolution to approve and submit the proposed 2015-2016 annual school budget. The Board also accepts the New Jersey Department of Education notification of 2015-2016 State aid and authorizes the Administration to make minor adjustments in the budget required by the Mercer County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

WHEREAS, P.L. 2013, chapter 280 requires the submission of an itemized budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools by March 20, 2015;

WHEREAS, the Executive County Superintendent will review the budget documents and either approve them or recommend adjustments;

WHEREAS, the Board will have additional opportunities to modify this budget at future Board meetings, after review by the Executive County Superintendent, or at the public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Activity Center at the Robbinsville High School, 155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road;

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends that the Board approve and submit the following proposed 2015-2016 annual school budget and accept the New Jersey Department of Education notification of 2015-2016 State aid;

WHEREAS, supporting documentation of this budget also contains an itemization of certain expenditures required under administrative regulations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for FY 2015-2016 using the 2015-2016 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$39,900,588	\$34,530,334
Special Revenue Fund	\$500,081	\$0
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$5,931,064</u>	<u>\$5,190,691</u>
Total Base Budget	\$46,331,733	\$39,721,025

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Trenton Times in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The tentative budget general fund tax levy, as per N.J.S.A. 18A:75-38, includes a tax levy adjustment for increases in health care cost increases in the amount of \$314,330.00 and a request to use banked cap in the amount of \$18,829.00 for increases to health benefit costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Robbinsville High School, 155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road, New Jersey on April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2015-2016 School Year.

The school district has prepared programs and services in addition to the Core Curriculum Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available in the Administration Office.

**B. APPROVE MAXIMUM TRAVEL EXPENDITURE FOR 2015-2016**

On motion of Mrs. Ciaccio and seconded by Mr. Young, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 6-0 to approve the maximum travel expenditure for the 2015 – 2016 school year for all staff and board members in the amount \$130,000.00 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b). The Robbinsville Board of Education also approves that an annual school year threshold of \$1,500.00 per staff member be established for regular business travel where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in the school year.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mrs. DeVito and seconded by Mrs. Ciaccio, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 6-0 to adjourn the March 11, 2015 special meeting at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. DeVita  
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary